GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4893
ANSWERED ON:31.03.2017
Project Saksham
Kothapalli Smt. Geetha

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has approved Rs. 2,256 crore outlay for Project Saksham to bolster the information technology network for the new GST regime, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) IT systems need to integrate with the Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) for processing of registration, payment and returns data sent by GSTN systems to CBEC, as well as act as a front-end for other modules like audit, appeal and investigation;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken in this regard; and

(d) whether there is any overlap in the GST related systems of CBEC and GSTN, if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor along with corrective steps being taken in this regard?

Answer

(a) Yes. Project Saksham is the name given to CBEC's IT Infrastructure Project. This IT Infrastructure project will enable not just the implementation of Goods and Services tax (GST) but also support all existing services in Customs, Central Excise and Service Tax. In addition, it will also enable extension of the Indian Customs Single Window Interface for Facilitating Trade (SWIFT) and other taxpayer-friendly initiatives under Digital Indian and Ease of Doing Business of CBEC.

(b) & (c) Yes. The information filed by taxpayers (for eg., Registration, Returns etc) on the GSTN portal will be transferred to CBEC systems via a link established by GSTN from their data centres to CBEC data centres. This information will be subsequently processed by CBEC's officers and the action taken will be transferred back to GSTN portal over this network. Thus, Project Saksham will enable setting up of an information exchange mechanism with GSTN through the use of pre-agreed Application Programming Interface (API) or other secure methods of message exchange.

(d) There is no overlap in the functions to be performed by the systems of CBEC and GSTN. CBEC's systems will be required to process data pertaining to Registration, Returns and Payment Modules which will be transmitted by GSTN to CBEC for backend processing. For other modules related to statutory tax functions such as Audit, Investigation etc. CBEC systems would provide front end interface to tax payers.